



February 2011

## **The RecTech Monthly**

Dear Michelle,

Welcome to the new and improved RecTech Monthly! RecTech's winter programs are well underway this month, with the addition of special Mid-Winter Break activities providing a creative and productive outlet for youth out of school last week. Even with the persistence of wintry weather, it has been a busy month. I am especially excited about our premiere winter internship program, continuing this month at Delridge. Read on for more about the Delridge interns and other RecTech happenings, and stay tuned for more to come!

### **Delridge Youth Media Corps**



Interns practice their interviewing skills at Delridge Community Technology Center

This quarter, our eight winter interns are gaining skills in photography, broadcast journalism, writing, and graphic design while learning about marketing and community engagement as part of Delridge RecTech's Youth Media Corps. This is the first time RecTech has offered an internship during the school year, and we are very encouraged by the success of the program so far. Interns work with their RecTech instructors after school each week, and even braved the winter weather to meet for intensive sessions during Mid-Winter Break. We will soon be able to see the interns' work on the West Seattle Blog, during United Way of King County's Hunger Action Week, and even on local Metro bus shelters! Stay tuned for more from this exciting program.

***RecTech Reach***

**Real people, real change. Made possible by RecTech...**

You might think a computer is just a collection of plastic, metal and wire. For José\*, however, a computer is his key to the world. Literally. Throughout our basic computer skills program this quarter, José would tell me, "Some people say we can't learn because we are too old, but I tell them we are never too old. There is always time to learn." José's diligence allowed him to become skilled at maneuvering a mouse and using the internet. His most recent accomplishment was the creation of his first email account. Most of José's family lives in Mexico, and expensive international telephone rates made it difficult for José to stay in contact with his family. Now that José has access to email, he can be connected to even the most faraway relatives. A computer may be a collection of plastic, metal and wire, but for José it is also an opportunity and a conduit for connection and community. \*Name changed for privacy.

-submitted by Grace Harrison

### RecTech Stats: February 2011

RecTech is off to a great start in 2011! Even as the wintry weather kept many indoors, it has been a busy quarter in the RecTech labs. January saw 1,890 visits to our labs, and with more data still to be counted February's total is above 2,170! Volunteer hours are on the rise as well, partially thanks to the many Tax Prep volunteers helping out at Rainier and Yesler this quarter; volunteers contributed over 60 hours in January and over 175 hours in February.

We served over 750 unique users last year, and as **RecTech Turns Ten** in 2011, we hope to reach 1,000 users across our ten RecTech sites. Many thanks to our dedicated RecTech staff and volunteers who continue to make it happen.



**OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN  
PROGRAMS PROVIDING EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND  
COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES, AND NEIGHBORHOODS**

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*Have something you would like included in next month's newsletter? Questions, comments, or suggestions? Keep in touch! We'd love to hear from you.*

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